

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----211102Z 122239 /16

P 210850Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9951

INFO AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1148

EXDIS

FROM LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US UK RH BC

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING WITH BOTSWANA FOREIGN  
MINISTER

1. GRAHAM AND I, TOGETHER WITH BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER,  
CALLED ON BOTSWANA FOREIGN MINISTER MOGWE WHO HAD JUST  
RETURNED FROM MAPUTO. GRAHAM OUTLINED OBJECTIVES OF  
CONSULTATIVE GROUP, OUR PLAN OF ACTION AND  
MINIMUM BASIC PRINCIPLES OF CONSTITUTION WHICH WE HOPED COULD BE  
NEGOTIATED. I ADDED THE PURPOSE OF US PARTICIPATION AND ROLE  
WE SAW OURSELVES PLAYING, AS WELL AS A NOTE OF APPRECIATION  
FOR THE CONSTRUCTIVE POSITION WHICH BOTSWANA HAS TAKEN  
IN EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA.

2. MOGWE STARTED OUT BY INDICATING MILD SURPRISE AT THE  
ARRANGEMENTS TO MEET WITH MUZOREWA IN GABORONE BUT  
WENT ON TO ASSURE US OF BOTSWANA'S SUPPORT FOR THE EFFORT.  
THERE FOLLOWED A CONVERSATION FOR ABOUT 45 MINUTES

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DURING WHICH MOGWE, MINISTER OF INFORMATION KWELAGOBE,  
AND SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT JOE LEGWAILA, WHO WERE  
ALSO PRESENT, ASKED A SERIES OF QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR PLANS  
AND THOUGHTS IN PURSUING THE CONSULTATIONS. BOTH  
GRAHAM AND I WERE IMPRESSED BY THEIR OBVIOUS INTEREST,  
POSITIVE APPROACH AND SYMPATHY FOR THE UNDERTAKING.  
THEY SEEMED ENCOURAGED BY THE WAY WE ARE PLANNING TO

GO AT THE TASK; THE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS; PRIORITY  
GIVEN TO A CONSTITUTION; CARETAKER RATHER THAN INTERIM  
GOVERNMENT CONCEPT; AND BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE CONSTITUTION.  
MOGWE SEEMED TO FEEL THAT IT WAS MUZOREWA  
WHO HAD BEEN THE CHIEF OBSTACLE TO COOPERATION AMONG THE  
NATIONALISTS IN THE PAST.

3. COMMENT: BOTSWANANS MAY HAVE BEEN SLIGHTLY  
EMBARRASSED BY ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY BRITISH TO MEET  
MUZOREWA IN GABORONE. IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR US TO  
BRIEF PRESIDENT KHAMA WHO LEFT TOWN SHORTLY AFTER OUR  
ARRIVAL FOR PREVIOUSLY PLANNED WEEKEND AT HIS HOME  
UP COUNTRY. BELIEVE, HOWEVER, CONVERSATION WITH  
MOGWE SERVED TO ALLAY MOST OF THEIR CONCERN. WE  
STRESSED THAT GABORONE WAS FIRST CAPITAL ALONG ROUTE  
OF CONSULTATIONS AND THAT WE INTENDED TO KEEP THE GOB  
INFORMED OF OUR PROGRESS AS WE WENT ALONG. THEY  
APPEAR TO BE PINNING SOME HOPE ON POSSIBILITY OF  
SUCCESS AND ARE PERHAPS THE MOST SYMPATHETIC OF THE  
FRONTLINE GOVERNMENTS. THEY ARE ALSO REALISTIC AND  
AWARE OF THE OBSTACLES.

NORLAND

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, US, UK, RH, BC, (MOGWE, AM)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009